

Maryland Landowner Incentive Program



FACT SHEET

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Landowner Incentive Program
Maryland Department of Natural
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Wildlife and Heritage Service
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www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/lip.asp



WHAT: The Landowner Incentive Program is a voluntary, non-regulatory state cost-share program that reimburses landowners for conservation efforts on their property benefiting species-at-risk in Maryland.

WHERE: Any private landowner in Maryland can apply for LIP funding; however, not all projects may receive funding. A ranking system will be used to evaluate applications, with priority given to projects benefiting one or more imperiled plant or animal species (species lists can be found on the DNR website: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/espaa.asp>) or one of the following rare or imperiled habitat types that contain many of the state's declining species:

- Ridge and Valley stream systems
- Shale barrens and glades
- Cliffs and sandstone outcrops
- Mountain mature forest
- Caves
- Cypress swamps
- Fens/seepage wetlands
- Coastal Plain mature forest
- Coastal Plain stream systems
- Groundwater-interfacing wetlands
- Xeric sand ridges

WHEN: Maryland DNR will evaluate applications as they are submitted. All habitat projects must involve a minimum 5-year commitment by the landowner. If an application is accepted, DNR biologists will conduct a site visit and assist in the development of a project plan. Project costs must include a minimum 25% match by the landowner, either cash or in-kind (e.g., use of equipment, volunteers). Upon project completion, DNR will reimburse the landowner for up to 75% of project costs. There is no cap to the maximum amount of funding that can be received by an individual applicant. Funding will be based on the scope and duration of each individual project.

TYPES OF PROJECTS: Maryland's Landowner Incentive Program will fund projects that enhance or restore habitat, including (but not restricted to) the following practices:

- *Reforestation:* planting trees, fencing off forested land from cattle access, managing forests;
- *Grassland buffers:* planting native grasses as buffers around rare or threatened habitats to protect from erosion or disturbance;
- *Invasive species control:* controlling exotic plant and animal species when they threaten the existence of rare habitats/species;
- *Vegetation management:* managing for early successional or other specific seral stages
- *Livestock exclusion and fencing:* installing cattle crossings, electric fencing in riparian zones
- *Restoring Wetland Hydrology:* removing blind ditches and drainage tiles, planting native wetland plants

HOW TO APPLY: Application forms are available online at the Maryland DNR website: www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/lip.asp. Technical assistance in completing applications or determining if rare species or habitat types are present is available by contacting DNR biologists (contact information on left). Completed applications should be mailed to the address shown on left.